

• Abroad •

London. The Radcliffe Tribunal, appointed to inquire into the case of Admiralty clerk John Vassall, who turned out to be a homosexual spying for Moscow, is at work. Early hearings have been occupied with reporters who wrote sensational articles on the affair, many of them suggesting a liaison of some sort between Vassall and his superior, Thomas Galbraith, a friend of the Prime Minister. The reporters have refused to identify their sources for juicier tidbits—that Vassall rented a £400 flat on a £700 salary, bought women's clothes, was known as "Auntie" around the office, frequently visited Barskimming (the Galbraith family estate), etc., at the same time that he had access to secret documents of Naval M.2 (Intelligence). The Tribunal has the power to compel responses, but has not yet decided whether to do so. The testimony occasionally indicates that in Britain plebeians still have special obstacles to overcome when assaulting upper-class ramparts. Brendan Mulholland of the *Mail* and Harry Miller of the *Telegraph* managed to get an interview with Galbraith at Barskimming. "Mr. Galbraith," Mulholland testified somewhat plaintively, "commented on my socks, which were yellow. He either said to Mr. Miller or nobody in particular: 'How can I have a serious conversation with that fellow sitting there in those outrageous socks?'" When counsel then examining asked, "What was outrageous about them?" Mulholland explained: "They were in a particularly nasty shade of yellow."

Leipzig. When Klaus Fuchs, the physicist and atom spy, was released from Britain's Wakefield prison, he was allowed to go to East Germany, where he was made a professor at the University of Leipzig, and an associate director at Dresden's Atomic Research Institute. His work was in non-military fields, but after several years he was asked to transfer to a Soviet institute where his research would have been integrated with weapons development. Fuchs, whose idealistic illusions about the Communist system had apparently been destroyed by experience, refused, and maintained his refusal in the face of intimidation, threats and penalties. The result was a psychological crackup; and Fuchs is now reported to be undergoing psychiatric treatment.

Ankara. A governmental decree issued this month designates Gulhane Park in Istanbul as an area where flirting will be henceforth permitted. The official statement defines "flirting" as "normal activities by loving couples in parks." Special park officials will be on 24-hour duty to guarantee that couples so occupied "shall not be disturbed." A spokesman explained that the new ruling is designed "to encourage tourism" and "to bring Turkey nearer to Western customs."

Lagos. The mass trial of Chief Awolowo and two dozen other leaders of the Action Group is now well into its second month. Anthony Oboh, Henry Oleari, Patrick Do-

kotri and Alhaji Ibrahim Imam have testified in detail about the training in guerrilla operations, sabotage and psychological warfare that the Action Group and the allied Bornu youth group were given in Ghana. Classes covered small arms, explosives, blowing up of houses and railways, organization and radio propaganda. Two Russians were in charge of the teaching staff.



"After all, you couldn't stand abstract art before Khrushchev condemned it."

Lomé, Togo. Although the murder of President Sylvanus Olympio seems to have been carried out more or less inadvertently by a brainless group of unemployed soldiers, the incident fits into the emergent pattern in sub-Saharan Africa. Responsible democratic government was never a serious possibility in the new nations; the tendency has been toward a one-party (more accurately, no-party) system under a paramount chief and his familiars. This means that an opposition, if there is one, must operate illegally, through conspiracy and terror. The last few months suggest the opening of a period of coups and putsches, often linked to a kind of pretorian guard formed from the inflated soldiery. There have been bomb throwings in Ghana—some of them perhaps provocations staged by Nkrumah. In Senegal, President Leopold Senghor blocked an attempted coup by a counter-coup of his own. Terror and counter-terror are widespread in Cameroun. A major plot is rumored in Ivory Coast. The parliamentary mechanism has broken down in Nigeria with physical fights in the assembly and the trial of the opposition for treason. Burundi has been staging public executions before audiences of 20,000. Two alleged Mali plotters against President Keita were brought to trial late in October, and duly condemned.

(In the last issue of the Bulletin, "Abroad" mistakenly located Najran in Yemen. Actually, Najran—from which some of the Yemeni royalists have been operating—is just across the border, in Saudi Arabia.)

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